

Message Text

SECRET

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:RWINSTANLEY

APPROVED BY: S/S-O:PSARROS

S/S:WHLUERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 217859

EXDIS TOSEC 144

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 7735 ACTION SECSTATE DATED 10/2/74.

QUOTE S E C R E T CAIRO 7735

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID EG JO SY

SUBJ: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT FORD TO
PRESIDENT SADAT ON AID LEGISLATION

REF: ATE 214669

1. I MET WITH PRESIDENT SADAT LAST NIGHT TO DELIVER
PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER ON AID LEGISLATION. AS IS
USUALLY THE CASE WITH SUCH MESSAGES, HE ASKED ME TO
READ IT TO HIM. HE LISTENED ATTENTIVELY. IN RESPONSE TO
A QUESTION, I EXPLAINED TO HIM DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
LEGISLATIVE AND CONTINUING RESOLUTION PROCEDURES.
I STRESSED PRESIDENT FORD'S ASSURANCE CONTAINED IN THE
LETTER THAT IF THE PASSAGE OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE LEGIS-
LATION IS NOT OBTAINABLE BY THE END OF DECEMBER, WE WILL

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SEEK TO DEVELOP THROUGH ALTERNATIVE LEGISLATIVE CHANNELS

THE NECESSARY AID FOR EGYPT. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION.

2. I THEN TOLD HIM ABOUT THE NEW YORK TIMES STORY THE PREVIOUS DAY QUOTING SECTION OF CAIRO 7505. HE ASKED HOW LEAK HAD OCCURRED. TOLD HIM I DID NOT KNOW, BUT I WAS SURE DEPT IS LOOKING INTO THE MATTER. HE SHOULD KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER IS THE LATEST STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT.

3. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE IS DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR OUT INTEREST IN EGYPT'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HE OBSERVED THAT EHE EXCERPTS FROM MY TELEGRAM, AS I HAD READ THEM TO HIM FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES, ACCURATELY REFLECT THE SITUATION HERE IF NO US ECONOMIC AID FOR EGYPT IS FORTHCOMING. HIS DOMESTIC POSITION WILL BE WEAKENED AND HIS ARAB CRITICS WILL SEIZE UPON IT TO CASTIGATE HIS POLICY. HE ALSO REMARKED ON DIFFICULTIES FAHMY WILL HAVE IN MOSCOW WERE IT TO APPEAR THAT US AID FOR EGYPT IS INDEFINELY POSTPONED. HE AGAIN EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE FOR PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER, STATING HE HAS FULL CONFIDENCE IN PRESIDENT FORD'S AND SECRETARY KISSINGER'S GOOD WILL AND GOOD INTENTIONS.

4. WE AGREED THAT I SHOULD ALSO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT WITH PRIME MINISTER HEGAZI. I NOW HAVE APPOINTMENT WITH PRIMIN AT NOON TOMORROW AT WHICH TIME I WILL DO SO.

5. COMMENT: TODAY'S AHRAM FRONTPAGES REFERENCES TO NEW YORK TIMES' DISCLOSURE OF MY TELEGRAM, BUT DOES NOT QUOTE EXCERPTS. WE MAY EXPECT THAT NEW OF PROBLEM WILL CAUSE SOME UNEASINESS HERE, BUT I BELIEVE THAT FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST PRESIDENT SARA HAS BEEN REASSURED.
EILTS UNQUOTE SISCO

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